



Media Release- 11 August 2006

ComReg publishes its Response to Consultation on the wholesale international roaming market

The Commission for Communications Regulation (ComReg) today published the Response to Consultation to its review of the wholesale market for international roaming services on Irish mobile networks.

The wholesale market relates to the purchase of wholesale roaming services by foreign Mobile Network Operators (MNOs) from the four Irish MNOs, to enable their subscribers to use their mobile phones while visiting Ireland. The market does not relate to Irish subscribers roaming abroad - this is the responsibility of telecommunications regulators in those countries visited by Irish subscribers. Having analysed the market ComReg has concluded that no undertaking(s) enjoys a position of single (or joint) dominance.

The international roaming services markets are the subject of a proposed regulation by the European Commission which addresses the high level of international roaming rates across the European Union. The EU Commission wants to ensure that the prices paid by consumers for roaming services within the EU are not unjustifiably higher than the prices paid for domestic mobile phone services.

This Market Review, which ComReg today notified to the EU Commission, focuses on the wholesale market in Ireland. However, ComReg believes that the coordinated EU wide response currently being proposed is both necessary and appropriate to address the high retail and wholesale international roaming rates.

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